

ADMINISTRATIVE  $\pm$  INTERNAL USE ONLY

DD/S 72-3061

03 AUG 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant for Information Control

SUBJECT : Security Classification and Control of  
Agency Information

1. National security information is defined as information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States. Levels of security classification are defined in terms of the relative gravity of damage to the national security which might be expected to result from unauthorized disclosure. Many of us are finding the new rules troublesome because we find it necessary to protect information against disclosure even though the consequences of its falling into hostile hands cannot be related directly to the defined hierarchy of damage to the national security except by very tenuous extension of the meaning of the terms. Allowing ourselves to be forced into these extensions endangers our credibility and can lead to embarrassment for the Agency. We need some system for protecting information which doesn't fit clearly into the definition of security information and the consequences of disclosure can't be assessed directly in terms of damage to the national security.

2. At the moment, "Administrative Internal Use Only" represents the only alternative to assigning a security classification or leaving information unclassified. We may get some relief from the dilemma by redefining "Administrative Internal Use Only" but I suspect there will still be a great deal of information we will want to protect which is not administrative.

3. I suggest we consider the development of a new system for use in the Agency, possibly even the Intelligence Community, which will permit us to afford levels of protection for information where the consequences of its unauthorized disclosure cannot be readily assessed in terms of the

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-2-

relative gravity of damage to the national security. We might use the word "Privileged," for example, to protect training, medical, security, personnel and some financial information which doesn't warrant security classification. We might use "Protected" for information which is neither "Privileged" nor "Administrative Internal Use Only" but doesn't warrant classification. We could define these terms in any way we choose and prescribe suitable procedures to ensure adequate protection in terms of storage and handling. We could write into the definitions or the procedures whatever conditions we consider necessary to comply with the Freedom of Information Act without putting everything into the public domain willy nilly.

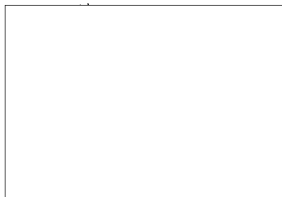
4. I haven't followed these thoughts through to the point of attempting to develop definitions because I am not confident that I would be able to include everything that should be included. As a matter of fact there is no need to develop definitions unless there is some agreement that the notion is worth pursuing. I put the idea forward for that kind of assessment, e.g., is it worth pursuing?



Chief, Support Operations Staff/DDS

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied